

20 - 2

6 FEB 1960

Honorable Joseph B. Clark  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Clark:

When you were recently here for lunch, you asked for some information on the volcanic eruption in Hawaii and the formation of islands by eruptions in the Azores.

I have looked into this and find out that volcanic eruptions are rarely accompanied by seismic disturbances large enough to be detected at distant stations, but may be detected acoustically if the eruption is explosive in nature. Since neither the Hawaiian eruption nor the island-forming activity in the Azores was explosive in nature, they were not detected.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

O/DCI/ [redacted] bak 5 Feb 60

Rewritten: AWD:mp 6 Feb 60

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62-74271


2 FEB 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Senator Clark's Questions on Volcanic Eruptions

1. Attached for use in your response to Senator Clark is a brief statement in reply to his questions on the volcanic eruption in Hawaii and the formation of islands by eruptions in the Azores.

2. The statement points out that distant seismic signals are rarely obtained from volcanoes, that acoustic detection is possible only when the eruption is explosive in nature, and that neither the Hawaiian volcano nor the island-forming activity was detected since they were not explosive.

*fw*   
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Assistant Director

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ATTACHMENT:

As stated

62-74271-24

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Replaces Form 30-4 which may be used.

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